policy on oilseeds production, import, distribution and pricing,

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) to what extent it will be helpful, and

(d) what are the buffer stock of oilseeds to be planned under the policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARI KRISHNA SHASTRI): (a) Yes, Sir. The Union Government has accepted an integrated policy on oilseed production, import, distribution and pricing in order to accelerate self-reliance in edible oil.

(b) The five elements of the Integrated Policy are as under:

(i) Support to farmers with technology, inputs, extension services and credit to increase oilseed production;

(ii) Raising the price of imported oil distributed through the Public Distribution System in a phased manner, in order that this is not less than prices derived from the support prices for oilseeds;

(iii) Prescription of a price band for wholesale price of edible oils, which will be fair both to the consumers and the producers,

(iv) Buffer stocking operation by NDDB, with domestically produced and imported stocks, to maintain prices within the prescribed price band, and

(v) Creation of high level "Empowered Committee" to supervise the implementation of Integrated Policy.

(c) Some elements of this policy have been under implementation during the last year and have largely contributed to an anticipated record level of production, 155 lakh MT in 1988-89. The Integrated Policy should result in achieving self-reliance in the shortest possible time.

(d) The size and composition of the buffer stock will very from year to year depending upon the level of production and anticipated demand.

Foreign currency loan to Salem Steel Plant

1795. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any foreign currency loan has been given by State Bank of India to Salem Steel Plant; and

(b) if so, quantum of the loan and details of its proposed utilisation?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR): (a) and (b) State Bank of India have signed an agreement with Steel Authority of India Ltd. to provide a foreign currency loan to the extent of Yen 1.612 billion through its overseas office at Hong Kong. This loan will be used for the import of plant and machinery for erection and commissioning of the 2nd Sendzimer Mill at Salem Steel Plant.

Production of pulses

1796. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that production of pulses during this year is likely to create a record;

(b) if so, the details thereof;